Vice President Holds Military Reins Briefly

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9 (Reuters) — For nearly two hours this morning the "black box" that links the Commander in Chief of the United States with his forces was in the hands of the Vice President.

Normally, only the President has authority to order mobilization of United States forces, including deployment of nuclear warheads. But Richard M. Nixon flew from the White House to California at 10 A.M. He left behind the "black box" of communications codes that would allow him to get in touch with active military commands.

And until 12:30 P.M., when Vice President Ford was sworn in as President, control of the military was shifted to the No. 2 man in Government.

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arms in the familiar "victory" gesture.

Several hundred people were at the airport outside Washington to see the President depart. He made no comments there, but once again waved and smiled from the ramp just before disappearing inside.

The engines whined and then screamed and then roared as the plane turned on the tarmac and began moving slowly away from the waving group along the wire fence.

On board with Mr. and Mrs. Nixon were Mr. and Mrs. Cox and Ronald L. Ziegler, the press secretary and Presidential adviser.

The jet wheeled onto the runway, paused momentarily and then began its take-off roll toward the west.

1974

Nixon, Welcomed on Coast, Pledges to Work for Peace

NYTimes

By WALLACE TURNER

Special to The New York Times

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., Aug. 9 — Richard M. Nixon, his hard-won Presidency lost, came back today to "the wonderful climate of California" to live in a villa over-looking the Pacific, where he promised to work for world peace.

A crowd of well-wishers and the curious greeted Mr. Nixon at El Toro Marine Air Base where he spoke briefly before traveling by helicopter the final 14 miles.

He had left Washington still the President, but as the Spirit of '76, his fitted-to-order jet passed somewhere near St. Louis, his resignation became effective at noon Eastern daylight time. When his plane landed at 11:56 A.M. Pacific daylight time, Mr. Nixon was the nation's only living former President.

A crowd of 5,000 waited. There was scattered applause when the plane approached.

Mr. Nixon had asked that ordinary citizens be admitted to the air base, which has happened infrequently on many previous Presidential trips there.

'Completed One Task'

Marines set up beachers, and most of the crowd were in these. They had a good view of Mr. and Mrs. Nixon, their daughter, Tricia, and her husband, Edward F. Cox.

"Many statements have been made and this is not time to bore you with another one," Mr. Nixon said, standing with his hands clasped in front of him. At his left, Mrs. Nixon stood stiffly, her hands at her sides, and at his right, Mrs. Cox stood similarly. Mr. Cox stood easily, his hands folded behind him.

"It is perhaps appropriate for me to say very simply this," Mr. Nixon said. "Having completed one task does not mean that we will just sit and enjoy this marvelous California climate and do nothing."

It seemed that Mr.mNixon h not prepared any remarks, but he said that of all the messages he received as President "believe me that the ones that meant the most wdre from right here in California."

The crowd shouted and applauded.

He spoke of "this great plane that took us to China, to Russia on two occasions, to the Mideast, this great Spirit of '76 has got to be long remembered because of those trips."

Turning to another topic, he said: "We'll celebrate the 200th anniversary of our country in 1976. What we came into this world for 200 years ago was something far greater than to just do something for ourselves. We came into the world to be a haven of opportunity for all people. We came into the world to make American nation in which there is more freedom, more opportunity for all people, regardless of background, than any country in the world."

He added that "America came into the world 200 years ago for the purpose of making the whole world closer to the dream of peace."

'We're Home Again'

"With all the time that I have which could be useful, I am going to continue to work for peace among all the world," Mr. Nixon said. "I intend to continue to work for opportunity and understanding among the people here in America."

He concluded to cheers that "I am going to continue — we are all going to continue — to be proud of the fact that we, too, are Californians and were home again."

Shortly afterward, the family flew here.

The Nixon villa, called La Casa Pacifica, is at the southwestern corner of this coastal city of 20,000. The slope of the land and the Coast Guard base next door have helped to isolate the villa.

Today, about 300 persons stood outside the Coast Guard gates. Secret Service agents admitted only about 75 persons—all local residents—who wanted to greet the family and had been cleared in advance.

For the first time since 1969 when the Nixons occupied the house, no reporters, photographers or television cameras were allowed inside the base. A pool television camera was held a half-mile away at the gate, and was forced to attempt coverage of events beyond a line of trees.

The wife of the Mayor, Mrs. Thomas O'Keefe, gave a bouquet of yellow roses to Mrs. Nixon. But her husband was held at the gate by Secret Service agents. Mayor O'Keefe said they did not explain why he was not admitted.

Reaction in Whittier

Today at Whittier, Calif., where Mr. Nixon grew up and went to college, the predominant attitude was one of dismay.

Dr. Paul S. Smith, retired president of Whittier College, said Mr. Nixon was a casualty of society that "is burdened with sin."

Alan Wheatland, owner of a construction company, said he had known Mr. Nixon since they were 4 years old and that they had attended grade school and high school together. Mr. Wheatland said Mr. Nixon "was wise to resign in view of the situation."

Lee Strong, chairman of the Whittier Uptown Association, said in his view "the last two Presidents have been run out of office." He said that "Nixon made a mistake and the resignation is necessary. But his guilt is hard to judge."

Here in San Clemente, it is unclear how the people feel toward Mr. Nixon. In 1972 when he reopened relationships with China, there was deep resentment among conservative Republicans here.

During his visits, Mr. Nixon has built some rapport with residents, but he has not had much to do with them. The entourage of Secret Service agents, famous visitors and news-gathering groups have made many residents uneasy.

Here at the villa are countless associations with the past.

Herbert W. Kalmbach, now in a Federal prison on a Watergate-related sentence, was the lawyer who oversaw the purchase and renovation of the place.

It was in a temporary office on the Coast Guard base that Mr. Nixon sw Federal Judge Matthew Byrne, Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's trial judge, just before John Ehrlichman made an overture about the F.B.I. directorship to the judge at the time the Nixon Administration was desperately seeking to convict Dr. Ellsberg in the Pentagon papers case.

Kissinger a Visitor

Secretary of State Kissinger frequently lived here when Mr. Nixon was in residence, occupying a rented house in a private beach community north of the Nixon estate.

H. R. Haldeman, awaiting trial on Watergate indictments, assigned his brother-in-law, France Reaine, a real estate man, to find a house for the President in the spring of [illegible] Mr. Reaine found this one.

Charles G. Rebozo and Robert H. Abplanalp, friends [illegible] days in the Presidency, helped Mr. Nixon buy the place and spent many carefree hours with him here.

The landscaping, the trees, the wall that surrounds the place and the specially built bridge across the Santa Fe Railroad tracks to the beach may have other associations for Mr. Nixon. They represent part of the more than $700,000 [illegible] funds spent to up[illegible] the property so it would [illegible] enough to [illegible] of the United States.

Nixon Does Not Listen To Address by Ford

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9 (UPI) — The Presidential aircraft, Spirit of '76, was 13 miles southwest of Jefferson City, Mo., flying at 39,000 feet at three minutes past noon today when Gerald R. Ford was sworn in as the 38th President of the United States.

Mr. Nixon was at his desk in the private compartment at the time and Mrs. Nixon was in the next compartment. Their daughter, Mrs. Edward F. Cox and her husband listened to Mr. Ford's address over the radio but Mr. Nixon did not, a spokesman said.

The Coxes later told Mr. Nixon about the broadcast and the President's mention of Mr. Nixon.